

Kittery's Road to Zero Waste

Updated Jan. 25, 2013

Goals and Leading by Example

The Town of Kittery strives to serve as a model for the community by setting waste reduction goals and then implementing those goals within its own facilities, programs and partnerships to promote Zero Waste practices.

Our overarching goal is to have Zero Waste by 2040!

COMPLETED GOALS

- Identify areas within the Town facilities where discarded materials could be reduced, such as break rooms and restrooms
- Create a Town-wide Green Team, starting with the schools
- Begin composting in our facilities, starting with the schools and all break rooms
- Install a greenhouse at Mitchell and expand other structures and programs
- Create a consistent color coding system for all recyclables – provide easier ways for residents to separate at home before coming to the facility
- Begin to separate out white paper in the high use areas, such as schools and copy rooms for increased revenues
- Purchase containers for bulk recycling in lieu of rental or extended contracts
- Add a monthly educational station for residents to learn more about food waste composting, gardening at home, low impact development, stormwater utilization, and sustainability projects
- Recycle and budget for recycling of used roofing shingles, as opposed to putting them in our landfill
- Limit our landfill to only gypsum board and glass, until other recyclable options are created

GOALS

- Conduct waste audits of all Town Department offices and facilities
- Create a resource center for reuse of donated office/school materials for teacher use that can be transformed into instructional aids, student projects or works of art
- Implement environmentally preferable purchasing strategies, one product at a time
- Restructure Town vehicle routes and implement operational efficiencies in miles driven to reduce carbon footprint using GPS technology
- Improve fuel efficiency of the Town's fleet by purchasing vehicles that use compressed natural gas, hybrid technology or other alternative fuels
- Find recycling revenues for glass and gypsum

ONGOING GOALS

- Implement ways to make recycling easier and more efficient at Town facilities – provide common recycle stations and color coding
- Educate Town employees to identify strategies for waste reduction
- coordinate educational series utilizing the new greenhouses installed at Triap and Shapleigh
- Implement ways to make transport of recycling materials easier at Town facilities